

ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.

DEXTER VILLAGE OFFICES

THE VILLAGE OF DEXTER

Members present: Victoria Schon, Mike Vickers, Lynn Babcock, Rich Bellas, James Davis, Cristen Rinderknecht, Gini Davis, Tom Rosenbaum and Paul Cousins.

The Committee welcomed Gini Davis as a new member of the Committee.

Notes from the November meeting were reviewed and no changes were made.

Plein Air Review. Potluck will be held on January 7, 2014. We will also be inviting people who have expressed interest in getting involved with the Plein Air event. Committee members are encouraged to think about three connections they have for possible corporate sponsorships.

Temporary Art Display. Cristen reported on her research on temporary art displays. She found the Midwest Sculpture Initiative. This organization helps communities coordinate temporary sculpture displays. As part of their service they have a pool of 900 artists that they advertise to along with handling publicity and delivery/installation/removal. The cost of the service is \$1600 per piece, however \$850 is paid by the Community and \$750 is paid by the participating artist. There is a six piece minimum so the cost would be \$5100. The sculptures are displayed from May to April. The deadline to apply is November 1 so we wouldn't be able to participate until 2015. This gives the Committee time to potentially find grant money, sponsors or use other means to raise money to supplement the General Fund money that could be used for this project.

Grant applications. The Village did not get accepted into the DIA Inside/Out Program. They did suggest that we send a letter requesting a pop-up display during Plein Air. Courtney will send a letter to the DIA with this request.

Public Art Updates. The current idea for the piece in front of LaFontaine is a functional piece of art made from car parts, such as a bench. The Committee will be working on putting out a call for artists to pursue this idea.

Other Initiatives. The Committee continued to discuss the idea of commissioning a literary work or play regarding the life of Katherine Dexter McCormick. The Committee is reaching out to the high school and Encore Theatre for more information on possibly commissioning a musical or play.

Victoria attended the Chamber Community Advisors meeting. She would also like to attend a Board meeting to talk directly to the Board members about ways to work together.

The Committee continued to discuss working with the Dexter Area Historical Society to update the Historical Map that they had created several years ago. The idea was to use the base map that was created for the walking map and focus on the historical buildings and architecture found in the downtown area. The Historical Society is supportive of the idea. Trustee Cousins has discussed this idea with the Dexter Coalition (5 Healthy Towns) who were supportive of including funding for the map in their 2014 Plan.

Gini Davis provided an explanation of Heritage Tourism – notes on this topic are attached.

Paul Cousins informed the Committee about the Big 400, which was started by Chelsea who invited surrounding communities to participate. The group includes the Pinckney/Waterloo recreation areas and was formed to work towards promoting the ecological virtues of the 20 square mile area as an economic development tool. The group has received assistance from the Ann Arbor Conventions and Visitors Bureau & Ypsilanti Conventions and Visitors Bureau. They have major events in the spring and fall. They recently completed a renovation of cabins at Mill Lake in October 2013. They are currently seeking funding for a director to promote the initiative. Their website is - thebig400.com

James Davis reminded the Committee about the monthly breakfast gatherings at the Dexter Coney Island.